

Amendments to the Claims:

The following represents a complete current status of all the claims in the present application, including amendments made by this paper. Original claims include amended claims received by the International Bureau on 13 January 2004. Any claims withdrawn or canceled in the prosecution of this application are done so without prejudice or disclaimer of any subject matter and the applicant reserves the right to pursue such claims in future continuing or divisional applications. By this paper, claims 2, 3 and 15 have been canceled and claim 1 has been amended.

Listing of Claims.

1(currently amended). A sharpening apparatus for a blade-like cutting implement having an elongate body and a cutting edge extending widthwise across one end of the body at a predetermined angle relative to the longitudinal axis of the body, the cutting edge being formed by an inclined face formed on one side face of the body, the apparatus including a cradle for holding a blade-like implement to be sharpened and a mounting body for mounting the cradle relative to a grinding surface, the cradle being mounted on a pair of guide rails for movement along a rectilinear path, the cradle including first and second rail followers slidably connected to a first and second of the guide rails respectively, the cradle including a seat for locating the blade-like implement at a preselected reference position on the cradle

such that the cutting edge of the implement to be sharpened is located parallel to said rectilinear path, the first rail ~~and/or~~ ~~the first rail follower~~ being adjustably movably mounted on the mounting body to enable the lateral position of the rectilinear path to be adjusted when the apparatus is in use, each end of the first rail being mounted on an eccentric rotatably supported in the mounting body such that adjustment of the lateral position of the rectilinear path is achieved by rotation of the eccentrics.

2-3(canceled).

4(previously presented). Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein parts selected from the group consisting of the second rail, the second rail follower or both are adjustably mounted to enable the angular position of the cradle to be adjusted about the longitudinal axis of the first rail to enable the angle of the inclined face of the implement to be adjusted relative to the rectilinear path.

5(previously presented). Apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the second rail follower is mounted on an arm slidably received on the cradle and a drive system provided for moving the arm longitudinally relative to the cradle.

6(previously presented). Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the cradle is detachable from the second rail to permit the cradle to pivot about the first rail for inspection of the implement during the sharpening process.

7(canceled).

8(previously presented). Apparatus according to claim 2 wherein parts selected from the group consisting of the second rail, the second rail follower or both are adjustably mounted to enable the angular position of the cradle to be adjusted about the longitudinal axis of the first rail to enable the angle of the inclined face of the implement to be adjusted relative to the rectilinear path.

9(previously presented). Apparatus according to claim 3 wherein parts selected from the group consisting of the second rail, the second rail follower or both are adjustably mounted to enable the angular position of the cradle to be adjusted about the longitudinal axis of the first rail to enable the angle of the inclined face of the implement to be adjusted relative to the rectilinear path.

10(previously presented). Apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the second rail follower is mounted on an arm slidably received on the cradle and a drive system provided for moving the arm longitudinally relative to the cradle.

11(previously presented). Apparatus according to claim 9 wherein the second rail follower is mounted on an arm slidably received on the cradle and a drive system provided for moving the arm longitudinally relative to the cradle.

12(previously presented). Apparatus according to claim 2

wherein the cradle is detachable from the second rail to permit the cradle to pivot about the first rail for inspection of the implement during the sharpening process.

13(previously presented). Apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the cradle is detachable from the second rail to permit the cradle to pivot about the first rail for inspection of the implement during the sharpening process.

14(previously presented). Apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the cradle is detachable from the second rail to permit the cradle to pivot about the first rail for inspection of the implement during the sharpening process.

15(canceled).